

SI Loyalties

THE FATHER HARRY CARLIN, SJ, HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

The Father Carlin Heritage Society publishes SI Loyalties semi-annually to honor those who have either remembered the school in their estate plans or shown outstanding generosity to St. Ignatius College Preparatory during their lives, and to inform all our supporters of the many ways that gifts come to the school.

Gift of Father's Home Benefits Scholarship Fund

Before he died, Charles H. Luchessa '23 faced several hard choices. What, for instance, was to become of the family house in which he, his wife, Elsie, and their two sons, Don '48 and Charles '50 enjoyed and was a meeting place for family gatherings for more than half a century?

This wasn't just any old fixer-upper. Before he died in 2001, his house was valued at more than \$2 million. After discussing the matter with his wife and sons, he decided to give it to SI.

Why would anyone give away a \$2 million house to a high school? Both his sons, successful in their own right, had their own family homes, so they didn't need another house.

"If we inherited it, we would have to pay the government \$1.1 million in taxes," said Charlie. "We would have had to fight with the IRS, arrange to have the house cleaned up, fight with the appraiser, and then sell it. Before my father's death, we all decided it would be much easier just giving it as a gift to SI."

The sons also wanted the money to go to SI because they felt the school "was the catalyst for our success," noted Charlie. "We felt that the money could make the biggest difference in the world in the formation of our future leaders."

The Luchessa brothers moved into the house with their parents, Charles and Elsie, in 1937, and from there they took the bus to SI's Stanyan Street campus.

Their father attended a much different SI, however. After St. Ignatius College's impressive Hayes and Van Ness campus was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire, the school erected a temporary structure on Hayes and Shrader that earned the nickname of the Shirt Factory.

In an interview several years ago, Charles Luchessa Sr. recalled what life was like in the years following World War I.

"Our faculty consisted only of priests until my senior year, when the school hired a lay teacher," said Mr. Luchessa. "In my last year, I learned how to play tennis. For lunch, we would go to Golden Gate Park and play there. Nine times out of 10, we would be late returning to class. One Italian priest told me once, 'Dolce fa niente,' which means, 'It's sweet to do nothing.'"

After graduating from SI and then Cal, Mr. Luchessa found a job at the *Recorder*, the legal newspaper for San Francisco, where his father worked as business manager.



Charles and Don Luchessa

"If we inherited [our father's home], we would have to pay the government \$1.1 million in taxes." — Charlie Luchessa

While times were tough during the Depression, Mr. Luchessa found that he could earn extra money by posting foreclosure notices on properties. "It was only \$3.50 per posting, but it added up. That's why I was in velvet during the Depression."

He and his wife, Elsie, lived long and happy lives raising their two sons and attending St. Vincent de Paul church every Sunday like clockwork. "My wife and I didn't have an argument in 68 years of marriage — she was so good natured."

Mrs. Luchessa died in 1996 at the age of 94. "I came into the room, and held her as she died in my arms."

After his wife's death, even in his 90s, Mr. Luchessa still drove himself everywhere, especially to St. Vincent de Paul where he attended daily Mass and continued to be the head usher at the 8 a.m. Mass every Sunday.

Mr. Luchessa did visit SI's Sunset District campus for his son Don's Golden Diploma Mass and reception in 1998, the year that marked the 75-year anniversary of his own graduation. "I told my dad to tell everyone at the reception that he had attended the first SI on Market Street. He yelled back at me, 'I'm not that old!'"

While the Shirt Factory remained Mr. Luchessa's image of SI, for his sons, the Stanyan Street campus was their home. Charles recalls his classes with Fr. Spohn and Fr. Jacobs and playing as a 165-pound offensive guard and linebacker on the varsity football team. "We weren't that good, but our team won a few games."

Don remembers the "great classmates, great teachers such as Warren White, and positive values we gained. SI also gave us the ability to learn so that we could teach ourselves once we left the school."

Both men loved growing up in the Marina District. "It was a sunny, wonderful place," said Don. "Our lives centered around Winfield Scott schoolyard, where we played whatever sport was in season. Charles, who graduated from SCU in electrical engineering, makes measuring instruments to detect water levels to help dam administrators regulate the release of water. He has helped to start several successful companies, the latest being Sierra Misco.

Don, now retired, worked as an investment advisor managing large pension funds after managing PacBell's pension fund for 30 years.

If you have questions regarding gifts of property to SI, please call Joe Vollert, director of development, at (415) 731-7500 ext. 319.

SI Seminar June 7 on Protecting and Using Your Home's Value

IN A GOLD MINE WITHOUT A PICK: YOUR HOME EQUITY AND YOUR FUTURE is the title of a Saturday, June 7, free seminar 9:30 a.m. to noon sponsored by Saint Ignatius College Preparatory. The seminar will be held in the Wall Choral Room.

The seminar will cover estate-planning and financial strategies that can preserve, transfer and extract the wealth locked in your home. Speakers will cover the following topics:

- Receiving income from your home through a reverse mortgage;
- Is it worth it to transfer your home through a living trust or is a will enough?
- How the way you hold title to your home affects your family;
- The pros and cons of joint tenancy and community property;
- How charitable remainder trusts bypass capital gains on real estate.

Speakers will be nonprofit reverse mortgage counselor Tricia Smith, estate planning attorney Michael Stecher, and charitable trust specialist Phil Murphy.

The seminar is educational and without commercial purpose. No financial services or products will be promoted or offered.

For reservations call (415) 731-7500, ext. 319 or email jvollert@siprep.org. Leave your name, phone number and the number in your party.



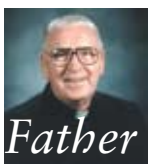
Heritage Society Gathers

More than 80 members of the Father Harry J. Carlin, S.J., Heritage Society came together last May at the Lake Merced Country Club. Pictured above are Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Paver, Mrs. Raggio and Mrs. Lavelle with SI Business Manager John Grealish '79. Those gathered said they had included SI in their estate plans out of appreciation for the success of their SI-educated children, affection for Fr. Carlin and other SI teachers, the vibrant presence of SI in their lives today, as a way to memorialize loved ones, and the desire to have a lasting association with the school.



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Father *Carlin Heritage Society Newsletter*